



CCB Parent Connector

St. Andrew, St. Mary, & St. Theresa



MAY 2018

www.billericacatholic.org

Greetings,

I recently went on a retreat in Gloucester. It was an incredible time of rest, recollection and renewing my relationship with Jesus. I am always in awe of how the Holy Spirit knows exactly what I need to reflect on, and what I need in order to grow deeper in my faith. This retreat was no different. A major theme that came up for me this year was the idea of trust. The idea of trusting in God and His will; and of knowing when to let go & when to act. After sharing with a priest how I was struggling with trust, he suggested that I speak to our Blessed Mother about it. Especially in terms of entrusting our family to God's care it can be helpful to learn from Mary, the mother of Jesus. And, since May is the Month of Mary, and with Mother's Day approaching, it seems appropriate to share my prayer reflections.

I sat before the Blessed Mary statue in one of the prayer rooms and pondered the experiences in Scripture that I was familiar with. First up, the Annunciation, when Mary is told she will be the mother of God. I asked her how she was able to trust that it was real. Did she need the reassurance of her cousin Elizabeth? Would knowing that Elizabeth was also indeed with child as the angel said ease any doubt she may have had? Surely, Elizabeth's words when Mary arrived must have filled her with great joy, and cemented her faith.

I thought of when Mary and Joseph couldn't find Jesus in the caravan, and went searching for days until they found him in the temple. I can still remember (palpably!) the fear I felt if I lost one of my children at the park for just a few moments! What must have that been like for Mary? Did she trust that all would be well and do nothing? No, she searched and did her part. And I would imagine, she kept a closer eye on the young Jesus in the future.

Other images of fleeing to Egypt with a very young Jesus, or asking Jesus to help at the wedding of Cana. She must have known that he had been baptized, that Jesus had been off in the desert in prayer, and as His mother felt she should encourage Him to help. Or when he was preaching and she would go to visit, perhaps to check up on Him and make sure He was OK. And then, of course, we have Jesus' passion. I imagine she positioned herself in the crowd so that she could see her son pass by on His way to Calvary. It took courage, but perhaps Mary needed to see in His eyes that indeed this was the will of His Father. And then she stayed at the foot of the cross, helped lay Him in the tomb and made her way home. Next, the waiting. The trusting that all of this was God's plan. So, she remained & stayed within a place of hope in God's promise. She most likely remembered all she had experienced with Jesus and how God was with her through it all. And then she trusted. That is good advice for all of us, especially mothers. **REMAIN. REMEMBER. TRUST.**

May this Mother's Day bring you the peace of Christ and the ability to let go and trust that if we remain with Him that indeed "all will be well." ♥

May Crowning of the Blessed Mother Mary on May 13



All children from the Catholic Community of Billerica are invited to join us for our annual crowning of the Blessed Mother. Children should come to the Mass dressed in either their First Eucharist outfits or their Sunday Best for this special occasion:

St. Andrew Church: 10 AM Mass

St. Mary Church: 9 AM Mass

St. Theresa Church: 10:30 AM Mass



Please Note!

Summer Mass Schedule for July & August:

The new summer weekend Mass schedule will be in effect for July and August. The schedule will include two 4 o'clock Masses at St. Mary and St. Andrew; an 8 AM at St. Andrew; 10 AM at St. Theresa and noon at St. Mary. The 5 o'clock will continue to be celebrated at St. Theresa.

Looking for Feedback!

In the April CCB Connector I mentioned having a Mass & Brunch for all recent parents who have had their child baptized. I will need to postpone for a bit. But in the meantime, I would very much appreciate if you could respond to this email on whether you feel you would be likely to attend (or even interested!). This feedback would be immensely beneficial as I move forward in the planning of this or any gathering of young parents. Thank you!

